

SPECIFICATION

TITLE

"ARRANGEMENT FOR PASSIVE GAS SAMPLING"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an arrangement for passive gas sampling of the type suitable for sampling a breathing gas.

Description of the Prior Art

In breathing systems such as ventilators and anesthetic apparatuses the breathing gas is analyzed regularly. This may be done directly in the main supply (with a so-called mainstream-analyzer) or by diverting a gas sample to a measuring chamber (so-called side stream-analyzer).

The diversion of the gas sample can be done actively by means of a pump or the like or passively, for example by creating a pressure variation between the pressure chamber's inlet and outlet. An example of the latter is described in United States Patent No. 6,450,968.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide an alternative to known arrangements for passive gas sampling.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an arrangement that is capable of sampling gas from breathing gas during both inspiration and expiration.

These objects are achieved in accordance with the present invention in an arrangement for passive gas sampling of a breathing gas in a breathing system, having a tube-piece with a first connector for receiving an inspiratory gas flow, a second connector for delivering an expiratory gas flow, and a third connector for delivering the inspiratory gas flow and receiving the expiratory gas flow. The

arrangement further includes a first port disposed between the second connector and the third connector and connected to a measurement chamber, a second port disposed between the first connector and the third connector and also connected to the measurement chamber, and a third port disposed between the first connector and the second connector and also connected to the measurement chamber.

In a tube-piece with three connectors, for example a Y-piece in a breathing apparatus, there arise aerodynamic effects that cause turbulence and pressure variations. These can be exploited in order to passively sample gas from a breathing gas. These effects arise during both inspiration and expiration.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows an embodiment of an arrangement according to the invention.

FIG. 2 shows an alternative embodiment of an arrangement according to the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An arrangement 2 according to the invention is shown in FIG. 1. The arrangement 2 is formed essentially of a tube-piece (for example a Y-piece) with a first connection 4 for receiving an inspiratory gas flow from a (not shown) breathing device; a second connector 6 for delivering an expiratory gas flow, and a third connector 8 for delivering the inspiratory gas flow and receiving the expiratory gas flow respectively to and from a (not shown) patient.

In order to divert a gas sample from and return a gas sample to the breathing gas flow in the arrangement 2, a first port 10 is arranged between the second connector 6 and the third connector 8, a second port 12 is arranged between the first connector 4 and the third connector 8, and a third port 14 is arranged between the first connector 4 and the second connector 6. All three ports 10,12,14 are connected

to a measurement chamber 16 for the analysis of the gas sample. The analysis of the gas sample may be achieved according to any known analysis method, for example optically, electrochemically or acoustically.

The locations of the ports 10,12,14 and the design of the flow paths within the arrangement 2 fundamentally influence the level of effectiveness of the passive exchange of gas samples in the measurement chamber 16. The basic principle is, however, the same, that is the exploitation of aerodynamic effects. This shall now be described.

During inspiration breathing gas will flow through the arrangement 2 from the first connector 4 to the third connector 8. The first port 10 will in the present context lie essentially in the middle of the path for the breathing gas whilst at the same time turbulence generates a lower pressure at the second port 12. A gas sample therefore will flow essentially into the measurement chamber 16 through the first port 10 and contemporaneously with flow of the earlier gas sample from the measurement chamber 16 through the second port 12. The turbulence will even result in a weak flow into the measurement chamber 16 through the third port 14.

During expiration breathing gas will flow through the arrangement 2 from the third connector 8 to the second connector 6. The third port 14 will in the present context lie essentially in the middle of the path for the breathing gas, while at the same time turbulence generates a lower pressure at the first port 10. A gas sample therefore will flow essentially into the measurement chamber 16 through the third port 14 contemporaneously with flow of the earlier gas sample from the measurement chamber 16 through the first port 10. Turbulence will even result in a weak flow into the measurement chamber 16 through the second port 12.

The separations between the respective ports 10,12,14 and the measurement chamber 16 as well as the volume that they occupy should be as small as possible, having regard to the analysis method that is applied, in order to expedite the exchange of the gas sample.

An alternative embodiment of an arrangement 2' according to the present invention is provided in FIG. 2.

The alternative embodiment is built upon the same principle for passive gas sampling as that of FIG. 1 except that in the alternative embodiment sampling during inspiration and expiration occurs through separate ports.

The arrangement 2' in the present case has a tube-piece with a first connection 4' for receiving an inspiratory gas flow from a (not shown) breathing device, a second connector 6' for delivering an expiratory gas flow and a third connector 8' for delivering the inspiratory gas flow and receiving the expiratory gas flow respectively to and from a (not shown) patient.

In order to divert a gas sample from and return a gas sample to the breathing gas flow in the arrangement 2' a first port 10' is arranged between the second connector 6' and the third connector 8', a second port 12' is arranged between the first connector 4' and the third connector 8', a third port 14' is arranged between the first connector 4' and the second connector 6', and a fourth port 18 is arranged between the second connector 6' and the third connector 8'. All four ports 10', 12', 14', 18 are connected to a measurement chamber 16' for the analysis of the gas sample.

As is shown in the FIG. 2 , the arrangement 2' is asymmetric and therefore requires that the couplings to the inspiration tube and the expiration tube be made exactly according to that shown in FIG. 2 (the arrangement 2 of FIG. 1 is symmetric

and therefore functions regardless of how it is coupled to the inspiration and the expiration tubes).

During inspiration breathing gas will flow through the arrangement 2' from the first connector 4' to the third connector 8'. The first port 10' will in the present context lie essentially in the middle of the path for the breathing gas whilst at the same time turbulence generates a lower pressure at the second port 12'. A gas sample therefore will flow essentially into the measurement chamber 16' through the first port 10 and contemporaneously with flow of the earlier gas sample from the measurement chamber 16' through the second port 12'.

During expiration breathing gas will flow through the arrangement 2' from the third connector 8' to the second connector 6'. The third port 14' will in the present context lie essentially in the middle of the path for the breathing gas, while at the same time turbulence generates a lower pressure at the fourth port 18. A gas sample therefore will flow essentially into the measurement chamber 16' through the third port 14' contemporaneously with flow of the earlier gas sample from the measurement chamber 16' through the fourth port 18.

An advantage with the arrangement 2' according to the alternative embodiment is that no mixing of gases from the different phases will occur in the respective ports (i.e., only inspiratory gas will flow through the first port 10' and the second port 12' while only expiratory gas will flow through the third port 14' and the fourth port 18).

An important advantage with the present arrangement 2 is that one may measure the gas with an analyzer during both inspiration and expiration.

A further valuable advantage is that the arrangement 2 does not provide any increase in resistance to the flow of breathing gas in the flow paths that is otherwise usual when passive gas sampling is desired.

Although modifications and changes may be suggested by those skilled in the art, it is the intention of the inventors to embody within the patent warranted hereon all changes and modifications as reasonably and properly come within the scope of their contribution to the art.